

Message Text

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0356

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: NPG: FOLLOW-UP STUDIES

REF:

A. USNATO 3728 DTG 011735Z JUL 76.

B. STATE 161436 DTG 292027Z JUN 76.

1. DELEGATION NOTES (REF A) THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE NPG REQUESTED (A) A REVIEW OF THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF TNF MODERNIZATION AND MBFR, (B) A REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN TNF IMPROVEMENTS AND (C) A STUDY OF THE FUTURE NUMBER AND ROLES OF NUCLEAR CAPABLE AIRCRAFT.

2. DELEGATION REQUESTS COPY OF STATE 161436 DTG 292027Z JUN 76 AND ANY FURTHER MESSAGES RELATING TO PERMREP STUDY OF INTERRELATIONSHIP OF TNF MODERNIZATION AND MBFR.

3. IN LIGHT OF THE MINISTER'S SENSITIVITY TO THE PROBLEMS OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN TNF PLANS AND QUOTE SOVIET PERCEPTIONS AND EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS UNQUOTE, WE REPEAT BELOW RECENT COMMENTS BY
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EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE VIENNA TALKS FOLLOWING THE NPG

MINISTERIAL. IN THEIR REMARKS THEY HAVE SOUGHT TO DEPRECATE NATO'S NUCLEAR REDUCTION PROPOSAL BY CITING PRESS ACCOUNTS OF WESTERN SPOKESMEN DISCUSSION PLANNED UNILATERAL NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS.

3. WE CITE THESE STATEMENTS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PRESS-PUBLIC INTEREST ASPECT OF TNF IMPROVEMENTS AND THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA. IN ADDITION TO CAUSING ALLIED CONCERN OVER THE US NUCLEAR COMMITMENT, PUBLICDISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS IN THE TNF CONTEXT IMPACTS ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ALLIANCE'S NEGOTIATING POSITION IN MBFR.

4. IN THE 22 JUNE INFORMAL SESSION, POLISH REP (DABROVA) MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. POLISH REP SAID WESTERN REPS HAD EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION AFTER THE WEST HAD TABLED ITS PROPOSAL OF DECEMBER 16, THAT THE WESTERN REDUCTION SCHEME WOULD NOW BECOME ACCEPTABLE TO THE EAST. ONE OF THE MAIN ARGUMENTS USED TO SUPPORT THIS JUDGEMENT CONSISTED IN PLACING GREAT STRESS ON THE GREAT MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF REDUCTION OF SOME PART OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND OF THE LIMITATIONS RESULTING FROM THIS REDUCTION.

B. POLISH REP SAID, IN THIS CONNECTION, HE WISHED TO POINT OUT THAT EASTERN REPS FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE ROLE PLAYED BY NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN CENTRAL EUROPE. BEING FULLY AWARE OF THIS, THE SOCIALIST STATES HAD FROM THE BEGINNING PROPOSED NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS WELL AS THEIR MEANS OF DELIVERY SHOULD BE REDUCED BY ALL STATES WHICH HAD THEM AT THEIR DISPOSAL IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

C. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, EASTERN REPS COULD NOT FAIL TO NOTE STATEMENTS OF WESTERN LEADERS AND IN AUTHORITATIVE WESTERN PUBLICATIONS ON THE NECESSITY TO MODERNIZE AMERICAN NUCLEAR FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND CONCERNING A PLANNED WETHDRAWAL OF SOME QUANTITY OF OUTDATED WARHEADS. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN AN ISSUE OF STRATEGIC SURVEY FOR 1975 PUBLISHED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES IN LONDON, IT WAS STATED ON PAGE 110 THAT, QUOTE DURING 1974 AND EARLY 1975 THE UNITED STATES CARRIED OUT A REAPPRAISAL OF THE SIZE AND STATE OF HER THEATER WEAPON INVENTORY IN EUROPE, WHICH WAS COMMONLY ACCEPTED AS BEING RATHER TOO LARGE FOR PRESENT NEEDS,

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AND OF HER DOCTRINE FOR USE OF THESE WEAPONS. AS A RESULT, SHE PROPOSED TO HER ALLIES IN JUNE 1975, THAT TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITH AMERICAN MANPOWER CUTS IN THE FIRST PHASE IN EXCHANGE FOR CUTS IN SOVIET GROUND FORCES AND TANKS. UNQUOTE.

D. POLISH REP CONTINUED THAT EASTERN REPS HAD ALSO NOTED PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE LATEST MEETING OF NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS, WHICH HAD EMPHASIZED THAT REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN

NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD NOT REDUCE NATO FIREPOWER IN EUROPE BECAUSE, IN PLACE OF OBSOLETE WARHEADS, NEW AND MORE EFFECTIVE TYPES WOULD BE INTRODUCED. A STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE OF JUNE 16.

E. AS FOLLOWED FROM THESE STATEMENTS AND REPORTS, THE REDUCTION OF SOME PART OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE WOULD NOT HAVE PARTICULAR MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE.

5. IN THE 1 JULY PLENARY SESSION, BULGARIAN REP (DICHEV) SOUNDED A SIMILAR THEME. QUOTE IN ATTEMPTING TO EVALUATE THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REDUCTION OF A PART OF THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONRY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE NUMEROUS REFERENCES TO THIS QUESTION BY THE WESTERN PRESS AND VARIOUS KINDS OF PUBLICATIONS. THE SENSE OF THESE REFERENCES, AS IS EVIDENTLY WELL KNOWN TO ALL THOSE PRESENT HERE, IS THAT THE USA PROPOSES TO INCLUDE IN THE REDUCTION OBSOLETE TYPES OF ITS NUCLEAR WARHEADS WHICH ARE SUPERFLUOUS IN TERMS OF THE CURRENT MODERNIZATION OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR RESOURCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. A SIMILAR ASSESSMENT OF A CERTAIN REDUCTION OF THE OPERATIONAL-TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONRY OF THE USA IN CENTRAL EUROPE WAS GIVEN IN THE LAST MEETING OF THE DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE NATO COUNTRIES, JUDGING BY REPORTS IN THE WESTERN PRESS. UNQUOTE.RESOR

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